

forthcoming on a number of issues that we did not want in our bill. It is not in the Senate bill. It is down to the issue of medical savings accounts. The House feels very strongly about it, and I think about half of the Members here feel very strongly about it.

So it seems to me that we ought to reach some accommodation on medical savings accounts and send this bill to the President for his signature. I assume he will sign it. There have been a lot of different proposals made—some rather useless, and others that I think have some merit. Hopefully, we can resolve that.

I understand Senator KASSEBAUM will be sending us—and maybe it is in my office now—a counterproposal, on which I will meet and discuss with my House colleagues, in the hopes that we can resolve that, too, before the day is out.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator be willing to yield briefly on that subject matter?

Mr. DOLE. Sure.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. If the Senator will suspend for a moment, I will take care of another matter.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3120

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. I ask the clerk to read a bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3120) to amend Title 18, United States Code, with respect to witness retaliation, witness tampering, and jury tampering.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I object to further consideration of this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I appreciate the majority leader yielding. I join with him in the eternal hope that, perhaps while he is still here, there may be a successful conclusion of this legislation; or, if not, at least an agreement can be made that can be followed up in his absence. I have stated on other occasions that the majority leader has been very much involved in this legislation.

Senator KASSEBAUM has been a real leader on this issue. It has been a bipartisan process in the Senate. Many of the ideas that have been incorporated in the legislation dealing with pre-existing conditions, and portability have been incorporated from the legislation that the majority leader has offered in the past. Although we have had differences on the MSA issue, he, nonetheless, has indicated, since the time that he announced he was going

to leave the Senate, that he was very hopeful that this legislation could be achieved while he was still here.

As recently as June 6 he indicated that its chances of success—and I think, he accurately portrayed it—are much greater with his presence here than without it. So I urge that the majority leader, because of the importance of this legislation, as well as the importance that he has placed on this legislation, and his involvement in it, that we would get the agreement, hopefully pass it while he was here; and I was even bold enough to suggest that he might want to remain here for the next few days until we were able to get this accomplished. More than 25 million Americans will be helped each year by this legislation, so it should be a top priority.

I want to ask the leader about his willingness to accept a reasonable compromise. I know that I speak in this instance for the President, who is most interested in getting a test of the idea of the MSA's, which is the principal issue at this point. The proposal from the House would provide the MSA's for approximately 80 percent of all the workers in the country. This obviously is unacceptable. I am hopeful that, with the majority leader's assistance, we could have a test of the idea so that we could explore whether it is helpful. I think reasonable people could find ways of finding a test without adopting a proposal which in effect moves toward coverage of 80 percent of the people and then eventually moves toward complete coverage without additional Senate intervention. This program is potentially too destructive to go that route. I hope he will use his own good offices to try to work with all parties to see if a legitimate proposal that could accurately be portrayed as a real test of the idea could be put into place.

There have been four separate proposals that have been advanced by the President and by others. There have been some which have been advanced by our Republican friends.

But this would be a great victory for the American people which I think the majority leader ought to share in if we are able to over the period of these next several hours agree on a real test of the idea, and I mean a reasonable kind of test and examination and evaluation prior to expanding the proposal.

Am I correct that at least the leader is going to try to see if that concept could be at least included in these negotiations?

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Massachusetts. I understand we have now received a proposal from my colleague, Senator KASSEBAUM. We are in the process of reviewing that proposal. I am not certain that the Senator from Massachusetts has a copy of it. But it indicates that we might be able to reach some compromise. I would like nothing better if we could conclude that today, have conferees appointed, and come to a satisfactory conclusion because, as the

Senator outlined, it affects millions of Americans. It should be done. And maybe—speaking for myself, I would like to have it done before I leave. But at least if that cannot happen, I would like to have the agreement before tomorrow at 2 o'clock, and maybe under the Senate rules we could deem it passed sometime after the House takes it up. I will have to check with the Parliamentarian on that. But if we have something to agree to, everybody in the Senate, as the Senator knows, the original bill passed unanimously—hopefully we could reach some agreement today, and at least have the agreement entered. Then the Senator from Massachusetts, the Senator from Kansas, and others could dispose of it later this week.

I thank the Senator.

Mr. KENNEDY. I have not seen the proposal, and I would welcome a chance to review it—and others who have been involved in that endeavor as well; not just myself but others. Senator KASSEBAUM—we take obviously her leadership role very seriously. I hope that this time that we could work out a real evaluation of the concept without exposing tens of millions of our fellow citizens to serious disruption in their health insurance if this does not work as well as its advocated claim. That is basically the issue. I know Senator KASSEBAUM was strongly committed toward an evaluation, a reasonable experimentation, a reasonable assessment, and reporting back. I say that would certainly offer an opportunity to move this forward. I hope that would be the proposal that would be out there rather than just the imposition of the program on a vast number of our citizens. But we will certainly look forward to it.

I thank the Senator.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, if I could use my leader time. Is leader time reserved?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Leader time is reserved.

The majority leader.

TRIBUTE TO SAM NUNN

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, on August 4, 1789, in the first year of existence, the U.S. Senate approved legislation to establish the Department of War. In the nearly 207 years since that date, the Senate has always devoted a great deal of attention to matters of national security.

Few Senators in that time, however, have devoted as much attention as Senator SAM NUNN of Georgia, who will leave this Senate next January after 24 years of service. While Senator NUNN and I have not agreed on every issue, I am just one of many Republicans who has always respected his expertise and admired his patriotism.

I especially recall the affection and admiration which our former colleague Barry Goldwater had for Senator NUNN. During the first 6 years of the Reagan administration, Senator Goldwater and